

**MINUTES**  
**ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING**

James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph, Room 9-034  
Chicago, Illinois

November 7, 2011

**PRESENT**

Trustees

Sunny Fischer, Chair  
Dan Arnold  
Julia Sniderman Bachrach  
Edward Genson  
Anthony Leone  
Shirley Portwood

Staff

Jan Grimes, Director, IHPA  
Garth Madison, Chief Legal Counsel, IHPA  
Eileen Mackevich, Director ALPLM  
Catherine Shannon, Deputy Director, IHPA  
Dave Blanchette, Communications Coordinator, IHPA  
Chuck Giger, Facilities Manager, IHPA  
Trina Weinert, Recording Secretary  
Mike Jackson, Div. Manager, Preserv. Services, IHPA  
Karen Everingham, Historic Sites Division, IHPA  
Eddy Fisher, Acting Chief Fiscal Officer, IHPA\*  
Theresa Cherrier, Director of Finance, ALPLM\*

Guests

Scott Harper, GOMB  
Jean Follett, Landmarks Illinois  
Rene Brethorst, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation  
Wayne Whalen, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation

---

\* Via teleconference

Sunny Fischer called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**(Items included minutes from July Board meeting; approval of candidate for Agency**

**Director; resolution accepting land for the Dana Thomas House; resolution accepting land**

**for the Jarrot Mansion; appointments to the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council; use of**

**Hostick Funds to support the Illinois History Conference; and future meeting dates:  
February 6, May 8 and September 10.)**

***Approval of Consent Agenda***

Sunny Fischer asked if anyone would like to take anything off the Consent Agenda. Director Grimes made a note that for the Acting Director the vote is effective November 8, 2011.

Julia Sniderman Bachrach made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Dan Arnold seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote.

**SUMMARY OF BOARD ACTIONS TO DATE**

Sunny Fischer asked Director Grimes to review what has been accomplished in the last eight board meetings prior to her leaving staff. Sunny Fischer summarized those actions. The Board was reconstituted with Sunny Fischer as chair and four new members. The Board held eight meetings in eighteen months; visited eight sites and became more familiar with the ALPLM. Concrete actions included: increased fees at the museum including charging school children; updated usage policies at sites; MOU for Dana Thomas House and another 18 sites; interviewed and hired a new Museum Director and brought new leadership to the ALPLM; accepted artifacts for the sites; approved loans; approved café and gift shop contracts; tried to be thoughtful and strong in planning; Extraordinary Families Museum project; Jeffris grant project; SHPO five year plan; Civil War sesquicentennial.

## **ROUTINE BUSINESS**

### ***IHPA Director's Report – Director Mackevich***

Director Grimes stated that her parting thoughts were with the future of the agency; we are in survival mode. The agency is short staffed and buried in budget concerns. Personnel issues bury us; there are so many hurdles to bring new personnel in and having union issues on top of it which complicates it. New procurement rules which are just impossible; the General Assembly stated it will just take time to iron things out. Catherine Shannon explained the process of procurement and that many agencies have procurement staff which IHPA does not. Jan Grimes stated the General Assembly wants two years under these new rules. IHPA is buried in emergencies with all the historic buildings that we have and the lack of capital projects, but Chuck Giger has hit the ground running. The agency will be working with a new director who knows state government; new building and grounds director, Chuck Giger, who is learning state government; new attorney, Garth Madison; and Eileen Mackevich who is still new and inherited a very short staffed museum. Scott Harper, GOMB, here to help and taking time to go to the sites and to learn about the agency. We need help from the Budget Office. We think we are doing the impossible now and may have to do with even less. All need to be patient and flexible.

### ***Jeffris Grant Project Report***

Julia Sniderman Bachrach stated she had an opportunity to participate in some of the project and got a lot out of it. Sniderman Bachrach met with the panel and interviewed everyone. The report from the Dana Thomas House was very impressive. Grant period was from April 15<sup>th</sup> through October of 2011; information was gathered from IHPA and other states during that period. Jan Grimes, Donna Harris, and Karen Everingham attended a national conference on September 15,

2011; there was interest in the project nationally. Recent meeting with the friends groups at Dana Thomas House started out fear based but ended on a very excited and positive note. Jan Grimes stated that the purpose of the Jeffris grant project is to identify best practices; new revenues; restructuring operations and reducing expenses. New revenues includes: admissions, online gift shop, statewide ballot, statewide sponsorship. Restructuring operations includes: college partnerships, internships, local partner agreements and privatization. Reducing expenses includes deferred maintenance, reduced operating hours, site closures and resident curators.

Karen Everingham stated three experts came in for revenue building. The recommendation for Dana Thomas House (DTH) was \$8 and \$12 admission and possible higher cost for extended tours. The parking lot and railroad tracks were a deterrent, but DTH just received property from DTH support group, which is to be used for parking. Key thing at DTH is staffing issues; two staff people currently and one will retire in June. A study was done on the New Salem restaurant and the terrible condition it was in. The report stated that the area will not support an operation of that size and was not feasible.

Jan Grimes stated the next steps. The first two would mostly be led out of Springfield office: right pricing (ticketing) and online marketing/web presence; define roles and responsibility – state vs. support groups; staff sustainability committee; statewide sites support network; apply best practices; update disaster plans; input from the IHPA Board and Governor's Budget office; change laws and approach unions for changes to allow sustainability. National report on other state's sites: closures are always political unpopular and save less money and cost more to reopen than expected due to hidden cost. The longer they are closed, the more expensive they

are to reopen. Julia Sniderman Bachrach stated that this is the start of our plan and we have a lot of material to guide the direction. There is not a one size fits all for the sites. Jean Follett stated that some sites may have to close; some are reconstructions and not the best of the best; some have a limited number of visitors.

Karen Everingham stated that we have the surveys from 2008 which were fairly comprehensive and have Pennsylvania's survey; going to have the Sustainability Committee look at them both; and build off what we have (inventory of assets). Then we can make some informed decisions.

Julia Sniderman Bachrach stated we have the friends' groups and have them work with the state. We need to push ahead with DTH even if it means changing legislation. Catherine Shannon stated the Sustainability Committee would be made up of any site managers who want to be involved. There will be a meeting of all the site managers in January 2012; not sure there would be a report in February due to staff shortages and newness of staff. Will have an update, but may not have report. Asking the site managers to do their own survey and bring the information on their site to the meeting. One of the first tasks of the Sustainability Committee is to get a better sense of the assets each site has; some sites don't have a strong support group or a support group in name only. See what ideas some of the site managers have; some have really creative ideas and best practices to share with others.

### ***Report from Scott Harper, Governor's Office of Management and Budget***

Scott Harper is from the Governor's Budget Office. Hoping to be an ally with IHPA. FY 12 budget was balanced but how do we fund critical needs? Money wasn't put in the right lines. Still trying to manage through FY 12. IHPA is in group of agencies in the middle of union

lawsuit with AFSCME which amounts to half of the state employees which has created a ripple effect in getting employees hired. He is asking his agencies to do a budget for FY 13 with a 5% cut and one with a 10%. Historical sites – no one situation fits all; figure out way legacy of political donation of sites determine our staffing and expense structure. Right in line with the Jeffris Grant and the Board members are thinking and how we can do things a different way. The results of the Budgeting for Results initiative first report was in. Asked taxpayers what they value. Closure of the sites was unpopular; politically unpopular. Six or seven major goals and sub-goals that they perceive the public is interested and that agencies do pieces; allocate program items to these sub-goals. Agencies funded by general revenue will be under pressure; these programs could raise one portion of an agency out of the 5%; a champion program could get disproportionate funds. Will work with staff to pick the sub-goal and work on the program and how the budget could be allocated.

### ***Staff and Trustee Reports***

#### **Legislative Initiatives**

Catherine Shannon stated that a legislative initiative of charging fees came in response to the work of the Jeffris Grant; Illinois and Iowa were the only two states not charging fees. Getting the legislation drafted; we have authority to establish and implement a pilot program for charging admission to state historic sites. DTH could be pilot program. May want to bring before the legislature before we start charging so they understand that the budget they passed forces us to charge admission. This will need to go through the Governor's office first. Need to make sure staff invites legislative members to visit sites; we need some champions from the local areas.

Some sites may not be sustainable even with admission fees. Still waiting on direction from the Governor's office.

The other proposal is from an Auditor General finding. We have the IL Historic Preservation Act which requires the agency to establish and maintain an Illinois Register of Historic Places. It is duplicative of the National Register of Historic Places and IHPA is the agency that administers that program as well. In the spirit of eliminating mandates that we are not using or are costly to administer; this one is archaic and should be removed. No new properties have been added since 1987 and all properties on the state register are also on the federal register. Governor's office has given us clearance to do so.

Tony Leone made a motion to eliminate the Illinois Register of Historic Properties, which is duplicative of the National Register of Historic Properties. Ed Genson seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote.

#### Historic Site Operations

Catherine Shannon stated the Civil War sesquicentennial events for 2011 are listed in the Board's binder. Update: there was a resolution last year that was passed by the House and Senate creating the Civil War Commission and so far there have been two appointments by Representative Cross -- Representative Brauer and Jim Fletcher -- to the commission but no other appointments have been made. Can't meet until all the commission members have been appointed and subject to appropriations; there was no appropriation authority. Will keep the Board updated if there are any more commission members appointed. Eileen Mackevich will be

covering the events at the ALPLM; there have been several events at the Davis Mansion and the Old State Capitol. Karen Everingham has completed the website with an event database. Report on the innovative and creative activities that some of the sites have been undertaking. They are bringing in money that supports their programming through those innovative ideas. Historic Sites Division revenues, which includes donations, rentals and other fees were \$391,000 in FY 11, which is an \$89,000 reduction from FY 10, in part due to decline in attendance and the fact that the DTH has been closed for six months. Need to be more aggressive in getting donations at sites. FY 10 to FY 11 attendance dropped by 11%. Staffing levels have decreased by almost half.

#### Update on ALPLF Initiatives

Rene Brethorst gave ALPLF report.

#### Grants

- \$46,000 IL Bureau of Tourism – marketing grant
- \$40,000 Caterpillar Foundation – Peoria school children
- \$25,000 JP Chase Foundation – musical program
- \$1,000 CVS – Youth with Asperger syndrome from Hope School

#### Pending requests

- \$97,000 AT&T – Taper Digitization education/web-based program
- \$10,000 Tourism Cares – More musical performances and interpreters during school visits
- \$149,597 National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) which is for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln
- \$50,000 NEH for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln Leadership going to Lech Walesa, former President of the Republic of Poland on February 9<sup>th</sup>. He will be visiting the ALPLM on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Membership at 5,100. In partnership with IL Bureau of Tourism and Comcast, we redid a commercial to be aired to 1.8



million viewers in Chicago area. Continuing to fundraise for the Taper Collection; partnering with ALPLM on Name on a Frame.

#### State Historian Selection Committee

Shirley Portwood reported the Committee has been communicating over the last several months and met this morning to discuss a potential resolution. The sources of information used to discuss the state historian position included a staff historian report from IHPA historians. They cover the IL statutes relating to the state historian, the duties of the state historians including the focus on Lincoln but also emphasis on other topics that include the entire state. Address the qualifications and desired characteristics of the state historian and should be a full-time paid position. Also, used an interview with Tom Schwartz, the out-going state historian. Shirley Portwood looked at interviews with IL historians who have researched and published extensively. The Committee came up with the following resolution and asked the Board to accept it: “Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency accepts and supports the report of the research of the Lincoln Collection Department historians entitled Responsibilities and Qualifications of the Illinois State Historian, dated July 27, 2011. The report will be presented to the Office of Governor of the State of Illinois with a recommendation for action after a review of the budget to determine the sources for funding this proposal. Be it further resolved that any honorary state historian must meet the criteria specified in the aforementioned report.” There was discussion on the resolution and the position of historian.

Ed Genson made a motion to approve the resolution. Tony Leone seconded the motion, which was defeated. Dan Arnold made a motion to table the motion. Julia Sniderman Bachrach seconded the motion, which carried.

### Construction and Facility Management

Chuck Giger reported his job entailed taking care of a waterline break at New Salem to disciplining a janitor at the ALPLM to going to Capital Development Board (CDB). Pullman Hotel Florence authorized to proceed on stabilization and report. US Department of Transportation will be moving the railcar from where it is to the site. DTH is 85% complete and will have the Christmas display and walk through. Crenshaw House waiting on archeological report; give to Board in February. Sandburg visitor center had roof leak; working with Rep. Moffitt to get labor and materials donated. Lincoln Tomb will have work on interior plaster starting next year. David Davis Mansion will have masonry work and half funded by their Foundation. Lincoln Log Cabin on critical list for a new furnace. Lincoln Tomb worked with city and CDB on a new waterline and will be funded through CDB. Old State Capitol has some mold issues and will be funded through CDB. FY 13 CDB projects, we have 15 Lincoln projects that come to \$14 million.

### Lincoln Family Farm Project

Dan Arnold stated he bought Lincoln Family Farm property prior to becoming a trustee in order to do three things. First to use the property help charities; second use the property to help teach the character virtues of Abraham Lincoln to children and third to promote tourism in the State of Illinois. Illinois allows common non-divided interest of real estate to be issued as deeds; so a

deed can be issued in a very small portion of a property and to use that for charities. Talking to the Foundation and giving them one million shares (one million deeds) for them to sell to help pay off the Taper Collection.

#### ULI/Pullman Status Report

Julia Sniderman Bachrach stated we engaged the services of Urban Land Institute which brings resources to planning issues; spent some time and had panel sessions on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Panel tours and interviews with 25 individuals that were considered stakeholders that are involved in the community, site or could be potentially helpful. Most recommendations were long term but need more short term recommendations/projects. Catherine Shannon stated hope to have recommendation by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### ALPLM Issues/Accomplishments

Director Mackevich stated the ALPLM is forming new collaborations with the Illinois Supreme Court Commission. Take ideas of law/trials and compare and contrast with Lincoln times. Doing a commitment trial of Mary next year. ALPLM received Mary's commitment papers from Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court. Involve fashion show called Mary's Extravagances; one person's extravagance is another person's necessity. We can license some of the jewelry the ALPLM has. ALPLM is working with community groups and other ethnic groups; have a good working relationship with the Indian Association of Greater Springfield; 400 families. Secret Recipes much too expensive on internal events; need to look at the contract to work with community events. Have the criteria established for creating an on-going dialog with community groups both in Chicago and throughout the state. Want to site all the mental

health professionals that we will be working with next year. There will be three events: a symposium with historians, a fashion show at Driehaus, and trial. We have an extraordinary staff; they don't just work hard but creatively. People are doing new things; they are collaborating in new ways.

The Board would like to commend Jan Grimes for her work as Director of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and wish her well.

There being no further business and no new business, Julia Sniderman Bachrach moved to adjourn the meeting. Tony Leone seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

---

Sunny Fischer, Chair